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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Wolfgang HEIL et al. : Group Art Unit: Unknown

Serial No.: 09/757,688 : Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: January 11, 2001 :

For: DROSPIRENONE FOR HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-76 in their entirety and insert the following new claims 77-132:

~~--77. A pharmaceutical composition comprising~~

~~as a first active agent, an estrogen (or naturally or synthetic derivative thereof) in sufficient amounts to treat diseases, disorders and symptoms associated with deficient endogenous levels of estrogen in women, and~~

~~as a second active agent, 6,7;15,16-dimethylene-3-oxo-17-preg-4-ene-21,17-carbolactone (drospirenone) in sufficient amounts to protect the endometrium from the adverse effects of estrogen,~~

~~together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or carrier.~~